

Greek Winter School 2019

Thucydides Book 1:89-118

The Pentekontaetia

(Brief notes. P. G. Brown)



FIGURE 1. BUSTS OF THUCYDIDES.

Thucydides:

- Born in 471 BC (?) of Thracian descent, son of Oloros, citizen of Athens.
- Said to have taken lessons in oratory from Antiphon of Rhamnos, the 'inventor' of oratory and there are some signs of this in the speeches.
- His youth and early manhood were passed during the great period of Athens under Pericles, who was greatly admired by Thuc.
- He suffered from the plague which devastated Athens and killed Pericles, but he himself survived it.
- In 424 he was one of the ten *stratego*i who commanded a squadron off the coast of Thrace. He failed in this campaign against Brasidas in saving Amphipolis, and, despite saving Eion, he was banished for 20 years, although it may be the case that he went into voluntary exile.
- He probably spent time in Sparta during this exile but eventually returned to Athens and according to one ancient biography was assassinated about age 70.
- Thucydides' work was never finished. He wrote what might be termed *Annals* rather than *history*, dated by successive winters and summers, which spoils the narrative somewhat.
 - Thuc. mentions only Hekataios as an historical source, but he must have been aware of the work of Herodotus. The *Pentekontaetia* begins precisely where Herodotus left off.
- Thuc. divides the work into three parts:
 - The ten years from the attack on Plataea by the Thebans (431) to the Peace of Nicias.
 - The next seven years of comparative suspension of hostilities.
 - The remaining period of the war, save for the last six years.

1

- The *Pentekontaetia* covers the period 479-432, describing the rise and development of the Athenian Empire. The coverage by Thuc. is divided into three sections:
 - i. conflicts with the Persians
 - ii. secessions from the Delian League
 - iii. Athenian conflict with members of the Peloponnesian League.

Time Line:

Thuc.	Date	History
(89)	479	Battle of Mykale
	478	Capture of Sestos, Byzantion
98	476	Kimon takes the Persian fortress of Eion
	473	Kimon takes Skyros and returns the 'bones of Theseus'
100	468	Battle of Eurymedon
	465	Revolt of Thasos
101	464	Thasians seek help from Sparta, earthquake at Sparta
102		Rebels go to Ithome. Athens called in and dismissed
	461	Kimon exiled
103		Helots from Ithome settled at Naupaktos
	460	Megara secedes from Pel. League, appeals to Athens Megarian ports and Pegai garrisoned, walls built
104	459	Inaros calls Athenians to Egypt. They take the White Fort
105	459	War between Korinth and Epidauros. Athens captures Haleis. Beginning of 1 st Pel. War
107	457	Sparta helps Dorians against Phokians. Athens believes an oligarchic coup is planned. Battle of Tanagra, defeat of Athens Invasion of Boiotia and battle of Oinophylai.
109	456	Defeat in Egypt
	455	Tolmides attacks Spartan dockyards
	454	Treasury moved from Delos to Athens
111	453	Perikles tries unsuccessfully to take Oiniadai
112	451	Five Year truce between Athens and Sparta
	450	Kimon sails to Kypros and lays siege. Death of Kimon
113	446	Loss of Boiotia. Thirty Years Peace.
116	440	Revolt of Samos

Short Bibliography:

Carmeron, H.D. Thucydides Book 1, 2003, A student's grammatical commentary.

Colson, F.H. Thucydides – Rise of the Athenian Empire, 1941, Selections from Thucydides Book 1.

Forbes, W.H. Thucydides Book 1, 1895.

French, A. The Athenian Half-Century, 1971. (Translation with historical commentary).

Gomme, A.W. A Historical Commentary on Thucydides, 1945.

Marchant, E.C. Thucydides Book 1, 1905, Macmillan.

Rhodes, P.J. Thucydides Book 1, 2014.

The notes below are taken directly from the works above.

Chapter 89.

τὰ πράγματα- 'the position', 'circumstances'.

ηὔξήθησαν - 'they became powerful'.

ναυσὶ καὶ πεζῶ - i.e. Salamis in 480 and Plateia in 479.

τὸ κοινόν - 'the government'.

βραχέα - 'a small remnant'.

οἱ δυνατοὶ τῶν Περσῶν - 'the Persians of highest rank'.

Chapter 90.

τὸ μέλλον - 'what was coming'.

ἦδιον ἂν ὀρώντες- i.e. 'would have preferred'.

τὰ μὲν ... τὸ δὲ πλεόν ... - 'on the one hand + participle ..., but mostly because ... + gen. abs'. An odd asymmetrical construction.

τὴν ... τόλμαν γενομένην - 'the boldness that developed'.

ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἔξω ... - 'but to join with them in pulling down the circuit walls of those (cities) especially outside the Peloponnesos for whom they (still) stood'.

βουλόμενον καὶ ὑποπτον τῆς γνώμης - 'the intention and suspicion behind their viewpoint'.

οὐκ ἂν ἔχοντος ἀπὸ ἐχυροῦ ποθεν - 'would not be able to move from a stronghold anywhere'.

μέχρι τοσούτου ἕως - 'until such a time when ...'

ἀπομάχεσθαι ἐκ τοῦ ἀναγκαιστάτου - 'to repel an assault from the most advantageous height'.

οἰκοδομήματος - 'property'.



FIGURE 2. CITY WALL. KERAMIKOS.

ὑπειπών - 'say in addition'.

ὅτι= ὅ τι

ὥς = ὅπως - so 'how (it was)' rather than 'that'. (Marchant).



FIGURE 3. BUST OF THEMISTOCLES

Chapter 91.

οὐκ εἶχεν ὅπως χρὴ ἀπιστῆσαι - lit. 'They were unable (to see) how they might disbelieve'.

παράγεσθαι - 'to be misled'.

ὥς ἥκιστα ἐπιφανῶς - 'with as little show as possible'.

τά τε σφίσιν αὐτοῖς ξύμφορα καὶ τὰ κοινά - 'both their own interests and the common interests'.

γνόντες - 'having formed the decision'.

καὶ ὅσα αὐ̂ ... φανῆναι - 'and in all matters of joint deliberation, they appeared second to none in their judgement'.

οὐ γὰρ ... - 'for they said it was not possible, unless their resources were equal (lit. except from equal resources) for them to offer counsel to the community of equal weight or worth'.

Chapter 92.

τῆς ... βουλήσεως ἀμαρτάνοντες - 'being disappointed in their wishes'.

ἀνεπικλήτως - 'without recriminations'.

Chapter 93.

μείζων ... ἐξήχθη - 'the circuit of the city was extended'.

ὁμοίως κινουῦντες - 'disturbing everything without distinction'.

ὑπήρχετο αὐτοῦ - 'a beginning had been made on it'. (Impersonal use.)

τῆς ἐκείνου ἀρχῆς - 'his magistracy' (prob. 482-1).

προφέρειν - 'to assist'.

καὶ τὴν ἀρχὴν εὐθὺς ξυγκατεσκεύαζεν - 'at once began to help them lay the foundation for the empire' (Marchant).

οὔτε χάλιξ οὔτε πῆλος - 'neither mortar nor clay'.

ἐντομῆ ἐγγώνιοι - 'made square by cutting'.

ἐς αὐτόν - that is, 'to Piraeus'.



FIGURE 4. MODERN DAY PIRAEUS.

Chapter 94.

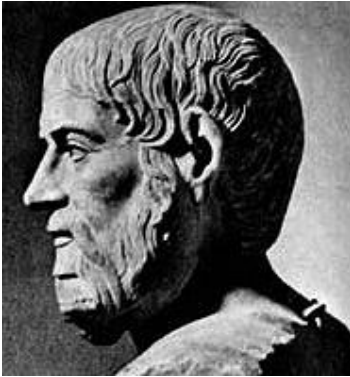


FIGURE 5. BUST OF PAUSANIAS.

During the Persian Wars, Leotychidas, one of the two Spartan kings, had command of the fleet, and Leonidas the land force. Leonidas was, of course, killed at Thermopylai and was succeeded by his brother Kleombrotos, since Leonidas' son was too young to take command. When Kleombrotos died, the land command was taken over by his son Pausanias, who acted as regent. Leotychidas returned to Sparta in 479 and Pausanias took control of the fleet.

Chapter 95.

Note that Thuc. clearly states that it was the allies who approached the Athenians to take over the leadership.

ἢν που βιάζεται ... - 'if in any respect he acted tyrannically. And the Athenians accepted the offer, intending not to overlook this and to manage all the other affairs in a way that seemed best to them'.

μετατάξασθαι - 'transferred power'.

ἠύθύνθη - 'he was called to account, censured'.

ἀπαλλαξείω - 'wishing to be rid of'.

Chapter 96.

πρόσχημα γὰρ ... - 'for this was the pretext to retaliate, for what they had suffered, by ravaging the King's land'.

ἀρχή - 'office'.

Chapter 97.

τοσάδε ἐπήλθον - 'they came to such a degree of power'.

διαχειρίσει πραγμάτων - 'statesmanship'.

ἃ ἐγένετο ... αὐτοῖς - '(affairs) which were conducted by them'.

καὶ Πελοπον. ... - 'and on each occasion when those of the Peloponnesians came into collision with them'.

Hellanikos probably lived from 496-411 and was from Lesbos.

τοῖς χρόνοις - 'in respect of chronology'.

ἀπόδειξιν ἔχει - 'it will explain' (sc. ταῦτα.)

Chapter 98.

Eion was a potentially dangerous base from which the Persians might have made an attack.

παρὰ το καθεστηκός - 'contrary to convention'.

Chapter 99.

ἔκδειαι - 'falling short, arrears'.

ἀκριβῶς ἔπρασσον καὶ λυπηροί ... - 'were strictly exacting and oppressive, applying compulsion to those who were not used to nor willing to endure hardship'.

ἦσαν δέ πως ... - 'and in other respects also, the Athenians were no longer ruling in an equally agreeable manner'.

ῥάδιόν τε προσάγεσθαι ἦν αὐτοῖς ... - 'and it was easy for them to subdue the disaffected'.

τὸ ἰκνούμενον ἀνάλωμα - 'the expense that fell to their share' (lit. 'was coming on them'), in apposition to χρήματα.

Plutarch in *Kimon* xi. says 'By using the payments of money of the allies, (Kimon) made the Athenians the masters of the very people who were contributing.'

Chapter 100.

πολέμιον - 'an act of hostility'.

Chapter 101.

ἦ - 'for this reason'.

ταξάμενοι - 'having arranged'.

Chapter 102.

νεωτερίσωσι - 'attempt some revolution'.

οὐκ ἐπὶ τῷ βελτίονι λόγῳ - lit. 'not for the more creditable reason', tr. 'for no good reason'. Kimon was ostracized for 10 years as a consequence of this, since he was part of the Athenian pro-Spartan faction.

πρὸς αὐτούς - 'with them' i.e. the Spartans.

ἀμφοτέροις - 'by both parties'.

Chapter 103.

προσεχώρησαν ... ἐς ξυμμαχίαν - 'came to an alliance'.

πολέμῳ κατεῖχον - 'were engaged in war'.

Chapter 104.

ὑπέρ - 'inland from'.

Chapter 105.

ἐπικούρους - 'auxiliaries'.

οἱ πρεσβύτατοι καὶ οἱ νεώτατοι - i.e. those under 20 and those over 40.

ἰσορρόπου - 'equally balanced', i.e. a stalemate.

διεκρίθησαν - 'they separated'.

The τροπαῖον generally consisted of a tree trunk on which was hung the weaponry of the enemy.

τοῖς ἄλλοις - 'the rest of the party'.

Chapter 106.

περιεῖργον - 'surrounding it' (present participle).

κατὰ πρόσωπον - 'in front, at the entrance'.

Chapter 107.

πολίσιμα - 'town'.

ὑπέρ - 'acting as regent for'.

`(They thought that) the Athenians would'.

τὸ δέ τι καί -`partly also'.

δημόν τε καταπαύσειν -`to put an end to the democracy'.

ὡς ἕκαστοι -`the various contingents'.

Chapter 108.

ἐν ἀποβάσει τῆς γῆς -`after disembarking into their territory'.

Chapter 109.

πολλὰ ἰδέαι - i.e. the fighting took many forms.

προχωρέω -`to succeed'.

ἄλλως = ματήν (Schol.). A common meaning in Homer.

κατὰ γῆν -`overland'

Prosopotis was an island formed by one of the mouths of the Nile.

ξηράνας -`having drained'.

Chapter 110.

διάδοχοι -`coming to relieve'.

ἔσχον (sc. τὰς ναῦς) κατὰ -`kept their ships in the direction of'.

κέρας = στόμα. This refers to one of the mouths of the Nile.

Chapter 111.

κατάγειν -`to reinstate'.

ὅσα μὴ προϊόντες πολὺ ἐκ τῶν ὄπλων -`as much as they could, not advancing much from their camps.'

First mention of Perikles in Thuc.

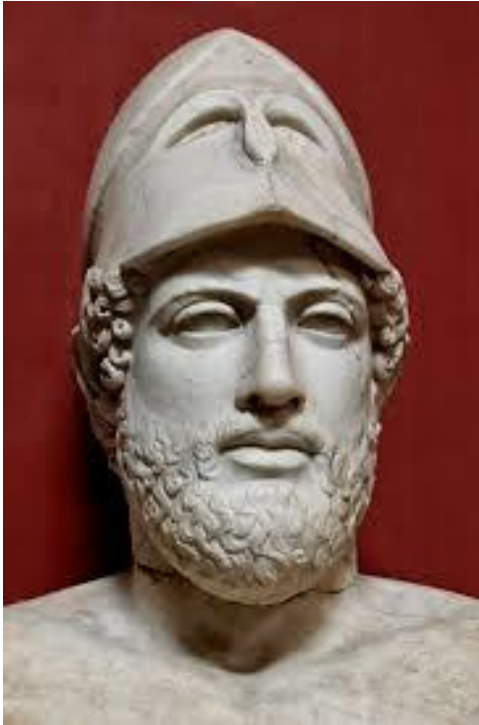


FIGURE 6. BUST OF PERIKLES.

Chapter 112.

Ἑλληνικοῦ μὲν πολέμου ἔσχον - 'ceased hostilities with the Greeks'

Chapter 113.

ἐγγενομένου - 'intervening'.

τῶν δὲ συμμάχων ὡς ἐκάστοις - 'and with contingents of various sizes from the allies'.

κατελθόντες - 'returned'.

Chapter 114.

ἐπαγαγόμενοι - 'bringing in as allies'.

Θριῶζε - Thria was near Eleusis.

τὸ πλεόν οὐκέτι προελθόντες - 'without making further advance'. Pleistoanax was banished from Sparta having been thought to have taken a bribe.

καὶ τὴν μὲν ἄλλην ... - 'making agreements with the rest; but the Hestiaiians they expelled from their homes, and occupied their territory themselves'.

Chapter 115.

ξυνεπελάβοντο - 'joined in with them'.

ἐκράτησαν τῶν πλείστων - 'prevailed over most (of the democrats)'.

τοὺς αὐτῶν - 'their own relatives'.

οἱ ἦσαν παρὰ σφίσιν - 'who were living in their midst'.

ξυναπέστησαν - 'joined with them in the revolt'.

Chapter 116.

προσκοπήν - 'spying expedition'.

περιαγγέλλουσαι βοηθεῖν - 'summoning re-enforcements'.

δεκάτου - 'and nine others'.

στρατιώτιδες - 'carrying soldiers'.

τρισὶ τείχεσι - 'by means of (i.e. by building) 3 walls'.

ἐφορμουσῶν - 'moorings'.

Chapter 117.

ἀφάρκτω - 'unfortified'.

ἀνταναγομένας - 'those putting out to sea against them'.

τῆς καθ'ἑαυτούς - 'on their coast'.

προσεβοήθησαν - 'reinforced'.

βραχεῖαν - 'feeble'.

κατὰ χρόνους - 'by installments'.

Chapter 118. (1 and 2)

τά τε Κερκυραϊκα καὶ τὰ Ποτ. - 'the affairs at Kerkyra and Potidea'.

ἤπτοντο - 'began to impinge'.

καθαιρετέα ἢ ἰσχὺς - 'their strength must be curtailed'.

ἀραμένοις - 'by them undertaking'.